

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 16-22, 24-41 are rejected. In response to the office action dated July 11, 2007, Applicants amended claims 1, 21-22, 30-32, and 35-36. Claims 42-66 were added and claims 20, 23, 39-41 were canceled. Claims 1-19, 21-22, 24-38, and 42-66 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 30, 31, 35, and 42 are independent claims. Applicants traverse these rejections and respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview held on June 9, 2008 regarding the allowability of claims 15 and 23. The Applicants and the Examiner discussed new claim 42, which includes the limitations of intervening claim 12 and "wherein the two openings rotate within parallel planes spaced apart along a rotational axis of the die wheel" from allowable claim 15. Please call the undersigned attorney of record if the additional limitation of "the orifice extending at an acute angle to the rotational axis" from claim 15 is required for allowability.

Allowable Subject Matter

The examiner indicated that claims 15 and 23 would be allowable, if rewritten in independent form, and include the limitations of any intervening claims. Applicants amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 23 and intervening claim 20. Applicants added independent claim 42 which includes the limitations of claim 1, intervening claim 12, and part of claim 15. New claims 43-63 depend from claim 42 and correspond to claims 2-11, 13-14, 16-19, 21-22, and 24-29.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄" have been used to designate rows of apertures in FIG. 12 and rows of resin in FIGS. 18 and 20. FIG. 12 has been amended to replace reference

characters "R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ and R₅" with the following reference characters: "A₁, A₂, A₃, A₄ and A₅", and the corresponding paragraphs, [0077] and [0078], of the specification have been amended accordingly.

FIG. 16 was objected to because reference character "2R" is shown but not mentioned in the detail description. FIG. 16 has been amended to remove reference character "2R".

FIG. 21 was objected to as running into the title of page 12 of 12. Applicants respectfully submit that formal drawings were filed on July 20, 2004 that corrected this problem. FIG. 21 is now shown on page 15 of 16 and is unobstructed.

FIG. 22 was objected to because reference numbers "602" and "604" both designate a transfer belt. FIG. 22 has been amended to remove reference number "604", and the corresponding paragraph [0086] of the specification has been amended accordingly.

No new matter has been introduced with the above amendments.

Objections to the Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 16 at the second to last line a patent application is incorporated by reference, however the space for the serial number of that application has been left blank. The specification has been amended to included the serial number of the concurrently filed application.

Claim 36 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 3, "dirction" appears to be a typo of "direction". Claim 36 was amended accordingly.

No new matter has been introduced with the above amendments.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 35-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The rejection indicates that application does not explain how a resin could be extruded through a rotatable die wheel while the die wheel is stationary, since the operation of the die wheel requires that it be rotating in order to deposit discrete doses of the resin. Applicants assume the Examiner may have mistakenly read claim 36 as reciting a *rotating*

die wheel versus a “*rotatable* die wheel”. The claimed die wheel is rotatable, and thus rotates, but is not required to rotate continuously and can stop to be at least momentarily stationary. As recited in claim 35, the moldable resin is extruded through an orifice defined in an outer surface of a *rotatable* die wheel *while the die wheel is stationary*. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 35-38 and submit that claims 35-38 are enabled and allowable.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and

Claims 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Published Application No. 2001/0018110 to Tuman (“Tuman”).

Applicants have canceled claims 39-41.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-14 and 16-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tuman in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,401,938 to Froeschke (“Froeschke”).

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claim 23 and intervening claim 20. Applicants added independent claim 42 which includes the limitations of claim 1, intervening claim 12, and part of claim 15.

In light of the above amendments, which add the limitations of the allowable subject matter to the base claims, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are patentable over the cited art of record. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims and respectfully request a notice of allowance.

CONCLUSION

The attorney of record below invites the Examiner to call with any questions regarding this matter.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above

may not be exhaustive, there may be reason for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to amendment.

The one-month extension of time and any other fees due are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization.

Please apply all charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 05918-246001.

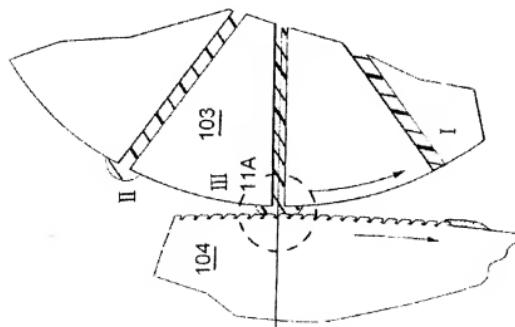
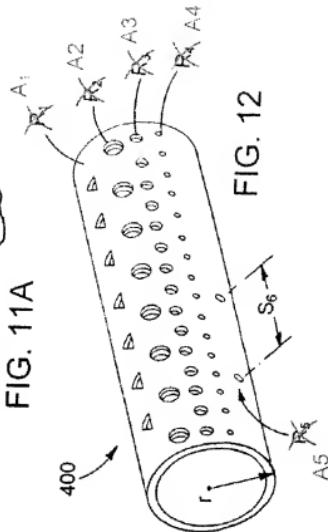
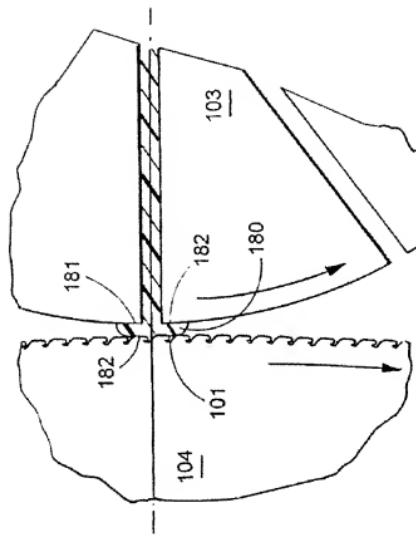
Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 9, 2008

/Brett A. Krueger/

Brett A. Krueger
Reg. No. 54,243

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906



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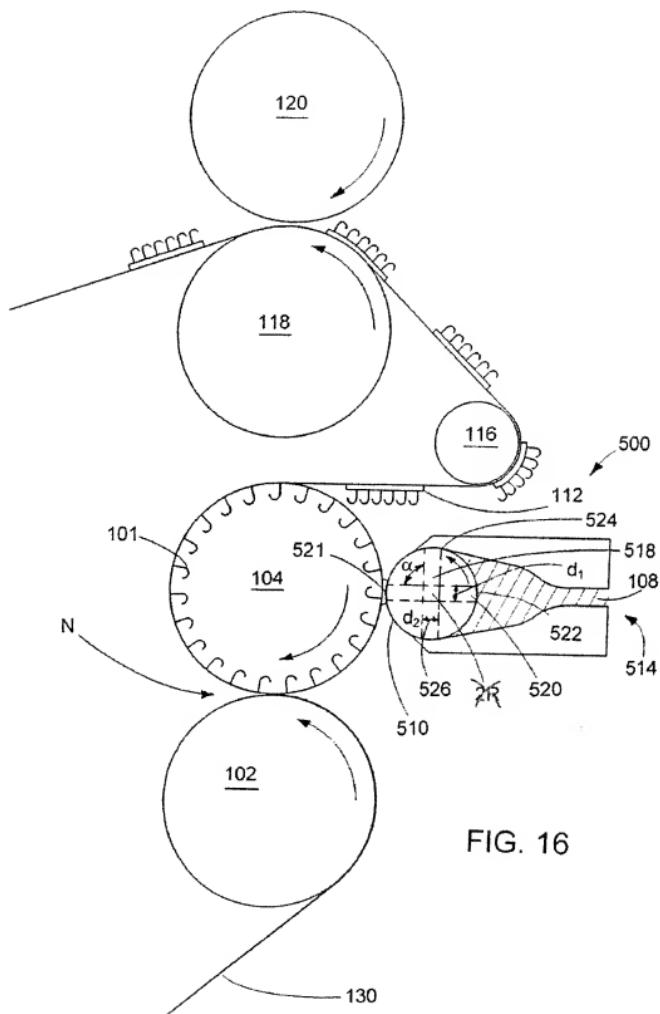


FIG. 16

